

The Labour Organiser

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**Comrades
and
Friends,**

We hope it is an augury of success in the Brecon and Radnor By-Election that, just prior to the announcement of the Election, the Party published an effective little brochure giving publicity to their Candidate, Mr. W. F. Jackson. This little document is delightfully got up, well illustrated, and it is one of the best pre-election publicity stunts we have come across. On the cover is an outline map of the two counties which comprise this Division. Roughly the Division is a rectangle 65 miles long by 32 miles wide. Yet our friends hope to win and we expect them to!

We note with interest that Southend's Labour paper, "The Month," has now been enlarged to four pages. It is a four-page with a circulation of 3,000. The lay-out and printing are exceptionally good. We should, however, like to hear of a much larger sale, and this is being strived for. Address: "The Month," Room 3, 61, London Road, Southend-on-Sea.

The "Rugby Citizen" is the latest addition to the ranks of the local Labour newspapers. It is a four-page paper, locally printed, and the first two issues promise well. There is a good sprinkling of advertisements, and altogether the "Rugby Citizen" is a very readable paper. There is a circulation of

10,000 per month, and this is going to prove a desirable aid in achieving victory in this Division. Address: 1, Elborow Street, Rugby.

A good illustration of the value of a local paper comes from the Harrow Division. The "Stanmore Labour News" has now been going for three years. We congratulate the Editor, Mr. Charles H. Ballard, on the part which his paper must have played in securing the following results in the U.D.C. Elections:—

1935	Majority	68
1936	"	317
1937	"	736
1938	Unopposed	
1939	Majority	2,105

Who was the Labour Agent who at a recent Party outing misplaced his wife and his umbrella? A local Party paper helpfully mentions that it was a good umbrella!

"From Versailles to Conscription and ? ? ?" is the title of a pamphlet by our old friend J. W. Kneeshaw, being a reprint of an article in "Forward." The pamphlet is a timely reminder of all the evils that have sprung from the so-called Peace Treaty and it might prove a useful antidote to those folk who speak as if all the evil and responsibility for present world chaos lies at the door of Germany. We are in agreement with the writer, who says the repudiation of the Treaty is the first requisite for the restoration of peace. And to think that some of the authors and sponsors of this Treaty have the cheek to raise their voices in favour of the conscription of boys who weren't born at the time their damnable deed was done! A hundred copies of the pamphlet may be obtained for 7/6 (500 for 30/-). Knee-

shaw has given us the sort of thing which the newspapers have conspired to hide from the public.

The following is from the West Leyton D.L.P.:—

"I enclose cheque being renewal for 10 copies monthly of the "Organiser" for the next 12 months.

"You will be pleased to know that my Party was not the least bit hesitant in placing this further renewal. Our copies are supplied to the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, five ward secretaries and the League of Youth and Women Secretaries, and we find that frequently your journal is quoted by these comrades in the course of business at the committee meetings. We regard it as a highly valuable journal for all responsible secretaries."

More Candidates

ESSEX: South-East.—Mr. T. Macpherson, Fairstead, Gt. Warley, Essex.

KENT: Chatham.—Mr. F. E. Sweetman, 61b, Windmill Hill, Enfield, Middx.

LONDON: Lewisham, West.—Mr. A. M. Skeffington, "Erewhon," 64, Norbury Hill, S.W.16.

NOTTS.: East.—Mr. G. Twells, 90, Ena Avenue, Sneinton Dale, Nottingham.

STAFFS.: Hanley.—Dr. B. Stross, Richmond House, Snow Hill, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent.

SUSSEX: Eastbourne.—Mr. Eric D. Hunt, 9, Albert Court, Edgware Road, W.2. Horsham and Worthing.—Mr. A. W. Wright, 36, Olive Road, Hove, 4, Sussex.

WARWICK: Birmingham, Duddeston.—Mrs. E. A. Wills, 34, Rupert Street, Nechells, Birmingham, 7.

WILTS.: Salisbury.—Mr. Norman E. Wiggins, 5, King's Bench Walk, E.C.4.

YORKS.: Mr. R. J. Hall, The Old Vicarage, Dallowgill, Ripon.

FLINTSHIRE: Mr. W. J. Rees, Y Ffrith, Rhyl, Flintshire.

GLASGOW: Gorbals.—Mr. G. Buchanan, M.P., 16, Ardberg Street, Glasgow, S.2.

ROSS AND CROMARTY: Mr. Malcolm MacEwen, Brachead, North Kessock, Inverness.

LEITH: Mr. J. H. Hoy, 59, Buccleuch Street, Edinburgh.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: Mr. B. Kingsley Martin, 16, Gt. James Street, W.C.1.

CANDIDATURES WITHDRAWN

BEDS.: Bedford.—Mr. Norman Mickle.
WORCS.: Stourbridge.—Mr. Wilfrid Wellock.

Agency Changes

MITCHAM: (Change of address) Mr. W. H. Gray, 1, Culvers Avenue, Carshalton, Surrey.

EAST FULHAM: (new appointment) Mr. W. A. Jones, 24, Fabian Road, East Fulham, S.W.6.

BURY: (change of address) Mr. S. Higham, 7a, Haymarket Street, Bury, Lancs.

STROUD: (new appointment) Mr. E. Fletcher, Labour Club, Cainscross Road, Stroud, Glos.

EDMONTON: (retirement) Coun. W. T. Harris.

ABINGDON: (retirement) Mr. W. B. Goodbody.

SEDFIELD: (deletion) Mr. F. Carr.

CREWE: Appointment pending.

LABOUR PARTY AGENT

Required by Crewe Divisional Labour Party

Appointment in conjunction with N.E.C. and at National scale.

Applications should be forwarded to

Councillor J. A. Madeley,
Labour Party, 34, Laura St.,
Crewe, Cheshire, not later than

31st July, 1939

LEAGUE OF YOUTH SUMMER SCHOOLS

Booking is proceeding apace for the two summer schools to be held from August 5th to August 12th at Godalming and Dalkeith respectively.

We should imagine that the Surrey school will easily fill all vacancies and there will probably be many disappointments.

Our own choice on this occasion, if we were young again, would be Dalkeith, and there late-comers should find a chance if they book up immediately. North-country youth has really got a wonderful opportunity this year with the latter school, and we envisage the glorious rides that are possible from all parts of Scotland, the North-Eastern countries, Lancashire, Yorkshire, and even the Midlands.

Newbattle Abbey, the venue for the school, is 8 miles south of Edinburgh in the Walter Scott country—in the famous Esk Valley. Indeed, the Esk runs through the grounds; there are gardens galore; a veritable Garden of Eden with every facility for a glorious holiday!

Labour's young people have indeed got an opportunity this year, for the Abbey itself is of great historic interest and housed in it is the famous Newbattle Collection of pictures—over 500 of them.

We mention the above possibilities because there is yet time for our readers to arrange for the young folk in their homes to go and get a really inspiring introduction to their colleagues in the League of Youth, via a holiday they will long remember. And the cost is only 35/- for the week.

LOW POLLS AT BY-ELECTIONS.

An important and interesting point about some of the by-election polls is brought out by Hinley Atkinson, who writes in the "London News" apropos the Kennington and Southwark By-Elections. The factor to which the writer draws attention is often obscured.

Writing of North Southwark, Mr. Atkinson says:—

"The electorate of the 1929 Register had shrunk by 10,000 to 26,000 in 1938, and the L.C.C. has since then demolished whole streets and evacu-

ated the tenants to other constituencies. Allowing for removals, our available electorate was well under 20,000. This goes far to explain the exceptionally low poll of less than 40 per cent. in this election, about which there has been much ill-informed comment.

"It is, of course, to be deplored that a percentage of the electors refuses to vote; but to exaggerate this one contributory cause of a low poll to the point of proclaiming or insinuating that "democracy doesn't work" is dangerous clap-trap. So long as the register on which by-elections must be fought is, at certain periods of the year, not less than 20 per cent. and often as much as 30 per cent. fictitious, we must expect a by-election to show a proportionate decrease from the poll at the General Election—for which, nowadays, a newly published register is used. There are a number of minor contributory factors to these low polls, but the basis of a full and representative poll is an up-to-date register, which must be provided for every election before any generalisations reflecting on the democratic franchise can be justified."

To all Secretaries and Organisers

**Why not a
Local Paper for
your Division?**

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page paper at the low
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quoted for*

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SERVICES LTD.**

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N.6.**

JIM MIDDLETON writes on the LABOUR BOOK SERVICE

The issue of the third set of volumes from the Labour Book Service gives occasion for impressing upon Labour Party members everywhere the real advantage that this new scheme is offering.

For 2/6 per month subscribers have already received (1) a book of note by Sir Norman Angell once more posing the question "Must There Be War?"—a thought-provoking volume of first-rate importance. (2) A series of readable thumb-nail sketches dealing with "How the Other Man Lives!" by Walter Greenwood, the man who put working-class life and the tragedy of unemployment in all its rawness on the West-End stage in "Love on the Dole."

He pictures nearly forty kinds of folk we meet day-by-day and gives a touch of reality to them all.

This of a Labour Party Agent has the authentic touch:

"When I got the agent's job I felt I was entering on the happiest period of my life—to be able to give all my time to the Movement. I can look back now with the knowledge that I was right in that anticipation. Mind you. I've shed a few illusions—who doesn't? But I'm a million miles off being a cynic."

"The Plan for Democratic Britain," the third book, just issued, is a competent summary of the Labour Party's domestic policy by G. D. H. Cole. Based on official documents, it is well-arranged and serves as a first-class picture of what the Party aims at achieving, given electoral authority and Parliamentary power. This book will serve as an admirable guide to the mass of research and exposition that has marked the Party's activities during the last eight years. It is a book to give to the men or women, young or otherwise, who know little of the Party beyond the stories that the newspapers tell. It concerns the

"home front," and must soon be followed by as concise and comprehensive a treatise on the Party's International and Commonwealth policy.

The foregoing are books running to 250 pages each, clearly-printed and well-bound. Accompanying them, however, have been three smaller bound brochures—"Fact Outlines." "What's What in Politics," a terse statement of the living political issues of the day by Robert Fraser; "The Labour Party To-day," a good deal of truth about Transport House, historical, executive and administrative, by Mrs. Mary A. Hamilton; "How Britain is Governed," a synopsis of the machinery of government by H. R. S. Crossman; although its title has been used on previous occasions by at least two other authors for similar textbooks, there is no suggestion of plagiarism about this compact and informative booklet.

In August, Frank Tilsley, a promising young Lancashire novelist, in "We Live and Learn," tells the story of his own industrial and political pilgrimage from Toryism, via Liberalism, to Socialism. It will be accompanied by Hugh Gaitskill's "Money in Daily Life," which in this "Fact Outline" will explain "the root of all evil," its use and misuse.

Members of the Labour Book Service join for four months and undertake to pay 2/6 per month upon receipt of the books, which reach them carriage paid.

Under a new scheme, of which Party Officers and Agents are being advised direct, the enrolment of subscribers is being stimulated by the payment of 1s. commission for every order received. This recalls the method by which the 200,000 circulation of the old "Daily Herald," nine years ago, was converted almost overnight to 1,000,000.

Party Agents, Officers and members

can render fine service to the Movement by placing their efforts behind this new venture. Further particulars are available upon application either to Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1, or to the Labour Book Service, 39, Earlham Street, London, W.C.2.

YOUTH

Beware Wreckers

The following extract from the League of Youth Organisation Bulletin indicates that Local Labour Parties as well as League of Youth branches may well be led astray by certain adventures engaged in by people who have long been endeavouring to sabotage the League of Youth from within.

Our readers would do well to take note of the matters mentioned, particularly in view of the decisions of the Annual Conference. We are interested to note that educational activities for the League are being extended by the Labour Party on more ambitious lines.

"Many enquiries have been received as to whether 'Advance' is still the official organ of the League. For the present, the whole matter is under review by the National Executive Committee.

"Meanwhile attention has been drawn to the levy which has been added to all 'Advance' accounts in order to finance the work of the 'League's National Committee.'

"The imposition of this levy has not received any official sanction. As the branches are aware, the decision of the National Executive Committee to disband the former National Advisory Committee was confirmed by an overwhelming majority at the Southport Conference.

"Similarly, the Head Office had no knowledge of the intention to sponsor this draw, and it is being conducted by entirely unofficial elements.

"Special cards are also now on sale at 2/6 each bearing the impress of the official League of Youth Badge and purporting to entitle the holder to attend League of Youth meetings as 'Patron Members.' These cards have

also been issued without official authority.

"Membership of the Labour Party League of Youth implies membership of the Labour Party and, therefore, the only official card to be taken up by League members is that issued by the Local Labour Party to which the branch of the League is attached. Possession of such a card **and that card alone** entitles young people to membership of the League of Youth."

The League of Youth

How they stand in the Counties

The following table gives the number of branches of the League of Youth in the several counties mentioned, and these are all registered at the Head Office. The moral of the figures should be plain to all concerned, and it shows where work is needed to be done.

Bedfordshire	...	...	1
Berkshire	...	...	1
Buckinghamshire	...	...	5
Cambridgeshire	...	...	1
Cheshire	...	...	5
Cornwall	...	...	1
Cumberland	...	...	5
Derbyshire	...	...	11
Devonshire	...	...	4
Dorsetshire	...	...	2
Durham	...	...	8
Essex	...	...	23
Gloucestershire	...	...	14
Hampshire	...	...	4
Hertfordshire	...	...	7
Kent	...	...	19
Lancashire	...	...	36
Leicestershire	...	...	2
Lincolnshire	...	...	2
London	...	...	58
Middlesex	...	...	29
Norfolk	...	...	6
Northants	...	...	1
Northumberland	...	...	4
Nottinghamshire	...	...	11
Somersetshire	...	...	4
Staffordshire	...	...	8
Suffolk	...	...	1
Surrey	...	...	15
Sussex	...	...	5
Warwickshire	...	...	14
Westmorland	...	...	1
Wiltshire	...	...	3
Yorkshire	...	...	52
Wales	...	...	20
Scotland	...	...	19

THE

1st article

PROPAGANDA ART COURSE



And Some Hints on Banner-Making

A highly interesting and useful service was started some time ago by a few unselfish people who desired to place their talents at the disposal of the Movement.

At our request an outline of this service has been supplied to us and is given below. This article also contains hints on banner-making, and it is to be followed in our next two issues by further articles.

Next month's article will deal with Posters, including Script, Aerographed, and Silk-Screen Posters, and the manufacture of the Silk-Screen Press.

The third article will deal with Wall-Newspapers and Window Display, and (briefly) with the rest of the subjects taught in the Course.

No one questions to-day that propaganda is an indispensable factor in political progress, but its use by the working-class movement has been severely handicapped in the past, both by financial and technical difficulties.

It was in an effort to overcome these difficulties that the Propaganda Art Course came into being. The founders of the Course realised that propaganda was indispensable to Left Wing progress, and also that it was not being adequately utilised by the Left. This, they contended, was due to the inability of Socialists to produce propaganda material for themselves, or to pay professionals to produce it for them.

But it was also contended that workers with no previous experience or special artistic talent could be easily taught to produce excellent banners, tableaux, posters, etc., very cheaply.

This last contention has been amply

proved—workers on their first evenings at the Course have produced banners which have compared to advantage with those coming from commercial sources, and the workers were not even necessarily skilled workers—Covent Garden porters, busmen and dockers—have all been highly successful.

The Course is run on a no-profit basis, thus making the cost of producing banners, etc., very low indeed, and well within the reach of all Left Wing organisations. The subjects taught cover a very wide field, e.g., banners and banner lettering; script, aerograph and silk-screen posters, including the manufacture of the silk-screen press; typography; wall-newspapers and photomontage; window-display; platform-decoration, etc.

One of the most important and useful subjects taught in the Course is banner-production. This embraces a very wide range of propaganda material, from the simplest branch banners, to large pictorial graphs, etc., on material, that are used for decorating halls for meetings, etc.

The banner reproduced above was executed by people with no previous experience whatsoever. They were ordinary rank and file Labour Party members.

In teaching banner production, the first thing that has to be emphasised is simplicity. When a banner is being carried in a demonstration, the onlooker only has a very short time to read it, and the banner which delivers its message in the most direct and straightforward manner is the one that will be remembered after the demonstration has passed.

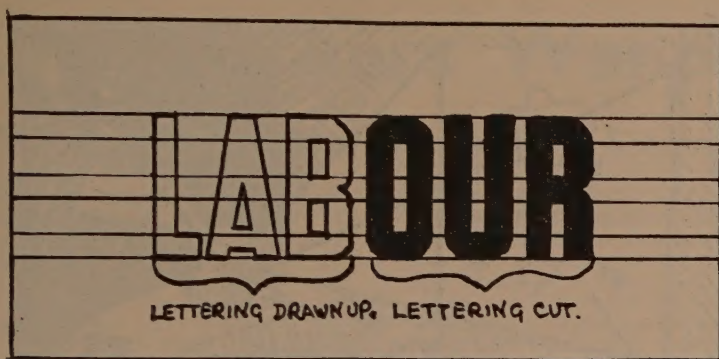


FIG. 1.

For the same reason, the lettering on the banner must be simple, clean, and, above all, legible, like the lettering used in its reproduction.

This lettering is drawn up by a very simple and purely mechanical process, as shown in Fig. 1 and mechanically spaced.

It is drawn up on ordinary cartridge paper; the letters are cut out as shown in Fig. 1, and the paint is stencilled through the paper on to the

banner with large stencil brushes (1 in. to 1 1/4 in. in diameter).

The stencil is held down on the banner either by weights or by drawing-pins. The centres of letters like "O," "R," and "P," etc., are pasted on the material and peeled off afterwards.

The method of stencilling and the materials used are shown in Fig. 2.

The portrait, shown in Fig. 3, was done from a photograph, enlarged by the aid of an "epidiascope."

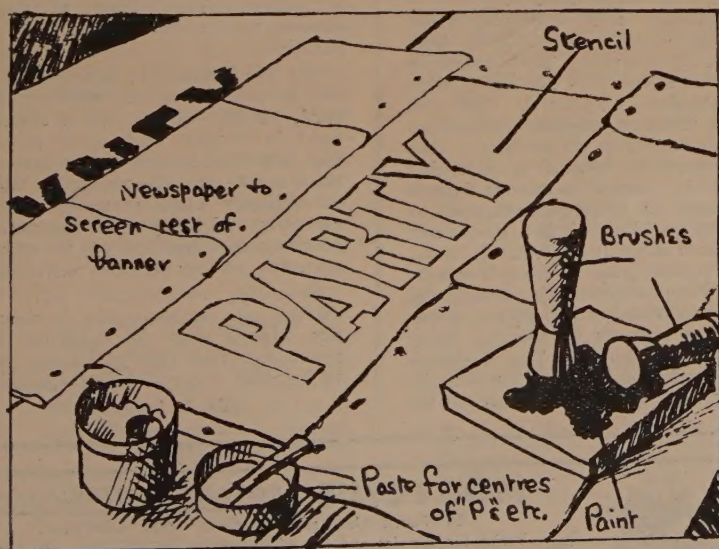


FIG. 2.



FIG. 3.

With an epidiascope the photograph is placed under the machine and the picture is projected up through a powerful lens on to the banner, where it is painted in very simply and broadly, with large brushes.

Epidiascopes are obtainable from most large shops where cameras, telescopes, etc., are sold. They range in price from about 18/- upwards. Mills Bros. (Model Engineers), Ltd., of Sheffield, make an epidiascope that can be recommended at £1 7s. 6d.

An alternative method of enlarging the pictorial part of a banner from a photograph or small drawing, is by "squaring up," but this is a slower and much more difficult process.

The "squaring-up" process is one by which the photograph is divided up into a large number of squares, a corresponding number of squares being drawn on the banner. The design is then transferred to the banner by copying what is in each square on the

photograph into the corresponding square on the banner.

Recently, experiments have been carried out in mounting banners on net, with a view to reducing wind-resistance. This type of banner proved to be most successful and effective.

Net for banners is very cheap, and can be obtained at any width (2/8 per yard, 12 feet wide). It is extremely light in weight, and, as it is rather like table-tennis net, it has very little wind resistance. The design is painted on ordinary white material, cut out carefully and sewn on to the net. The lettering is stencilled on to strips of material, which are also sewn on.

Recently, experiments have been carried out in mounting banners on net, with a view to reducing wind-resistance. This type of banner proved to be most successful and effective.

(To be continued)



MORTON'S ROTARY DUPLICATORS

Equal work to large rotary machines. 63/- COMPLETE.

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Key Workers Wanted

The Training Classes and Training Schemes

One of the tragedies of Democracy is the holocaust of sacrifice and of willing help that is enacted at so many elections. Often ill-trained and ill-fitted themselves for the task of running an election, the directors of the forces flounder and misdirect; the rank and file, still more ill-equipped, go here and there, do this and that, and whatever they do seems futile and misconceived. There is abundance of effort, but mess, muddle, haste, cross-purposes or no purpose at all, in much that is done. Committee rooms are crowded with chatterers, and the latter themselves don't know the wastage of energies that is taking place nor any better mode of marching to victory.

This is no overdrawn picture. It is a true description of the situation in very many elections; and in lesser degree it is true of the majority. Yet such is the strength and impetus of Labour that we sometimes win even in these circumstances. But how many of the marginal constituencies could we win if the circumstances could be altered? if the order and co-operation of the Socialist State mirrored itself in the efforts of its believers to win or make possible that State?

The problem is one that has presented itself no end to the Labour Party. Hence Study Courses in Organisation and Electoral Law, the training of agents, and schemes for training key workers in the constituencies.

There are really two problems involved. The first one is to train qualified persons for the higher and more responsible posts — agents for organisation and all classes of elections, and Parliamentary election agents only for the special purpose of the General Election.

The second job is to train an officer-ship, i.e., key workers in sufficient abundance to run an up-to-date election machine, and win with it.

The first task has been attempted

for some years by the Labour Party. But the scheme, beneficial as it has proved, could not be expected to produce 500 or so election agents in the time it has been going. Labour has dozens and dozens of fights on its hands where skilled agents are lacking—where makeshift, last-minute appointments, and men drawn in to fill a gap, ought no longer to be tolerated.

LABOUR MUST HAVE MORE TRAINED AGENTS, and we note with pleasure that emergency measures have been decided upon.

From now on it is possible to enrol students under the Study Course **for training in the Management of Elections only.**

Students will pay a reduced fee of 10/- and will skip the first four sets of lessons (in Party work, etc.), and get right down to the question of Parliamentary Elections.

This arrangement, if sufficiently taken up, is going to give us the trained election agents. Such persons may, if they choose, continue the lessons after the election and take the full course on paying the balance of the fee.

We hope our readers will specially note the above matter, particularly so far as it may concern themselves or their own constituency.

Then there are the key workers to train. Special facilities have been afforded for local classes in the constituencies. Already over 100 such classes have been arranged, but there ought to be 300 at least.

If your constituency has not arranged a class, is it because everybody is satisfied of being ready down to the last button?—a very dangerous state of mind. Or is it because not sufficient persons are interested?

If for the latter reason it is pertinent to ask the Party why have a candidate at all?

To-days are thrilling times. And the dice is loaded against Democracy by the very people who mouth its

name. These things are urgent. They are vital. And we hope our readers will drive this advice and these opportunities home upon their Parties.

In another part of this issue we make references to a pre-election canvass. To all trainees we say: get practice, your training will be real if you try it out among the people. The pre-election canvass will make fit the fittest.

LEEDS SOCIALIST WEEK

The South Leeds Division are planning a big piece of work during Socialist Week, says Ald. George Brett in the Leeds "Weekly News."

It is proposed to work the whole of the election machine, and an attempt will be made to canvass every house in the Division.

The Ward Parties are to be at it every evening. Canvassers will carry canvass books, and mark up results. The canvasser will present a well-got-up photo card to the elector, on which a photograph of the Municipal Candidate for the Ward, and also that of the Parliamentary Candidate.

The card is to be 7 x 5 which is large enough to carry the two photographs and also suitable letterpress.

The Municipal Candidate in each Ward will act as Leader, and the canvass will be conducted by the mass method. The numbers engaged in the work will, it is hoped, be such that every street will be impressed by that one fact alone.

The prospective Parliamentary Candidate will spend an half hour each evening with every Ward Group, making short speeches in the streets, and establishing contacts with the electors.

It is felt that by this method, both Municipal and Parliamentary Candidates will make many direct contacts with the electorate, that could not otherwise be made.

Besides the introductory photo card, canvassers will carry suitable pamphlets explaining why the electors should vote Labour, and of course will sell these where possible.

The results of such an effort can be many.

We can ascertain by intelligent canvass the reactions of the electorate to the present situation.

We can find out weak links, and attempt to remedy them.

We can impress the public with the fact that the Labour Party is alive, and ready to serve them.

We can make our candidates more widely known to the electorate.

We can make Labour Party policy better understood by the sale of pamphlets.

All this should be helpful for both Municipal and General Elections.

The only advertising of the Campaign will be by one very large-sized poster, posted on some key position in the Division.

The Campaign will be five evenings, every active member in every Ward will be asked to turn out every evening, and the Campaign will end on Sunday, July 23rd, with open-air meetings in Cross Flatts Park and on Holbeck Moor.

£250,000

Was the magnificent sum raised during the past year by enterprising secretaries who took advantage of our popular

FUND RAISING SCHEMES

A Secretary writes :

"We have made a profit of just under £89 5 0 in only four months working of one of your schemes."

Enterprising Secretaries !

Write for samples and prices of our popular Fund Raising Scheme to :

Cambridge Press

Whalley Road

Clayton-le-Moors - Lancs.

(Members T.A.)

(45 hours)

A & B and LISTS B & C

JACK CUTTER REPORTS

A CONVERSATION

A.—“Ah! I see you have Lists B and C there.”

B.—“Yes, they only arrived from the Registration Officer this morning.”

A.—“They will keep you busy for a week or two, I suppose?”

B.—“Oh, I don't know. I hadn't thought of doing anything special with them. Now, when the full list comes out I'm going to have my election envelopes written up right away.”

A.—“Personally, I think the arrival of Lists B and C is a much more important event than the arrival of the new Register. After all, there's nothing you can do about a new Register once it's printed. It has just got to stand, however many mistakes there are in it, whereas you can do a lot to alter and improve Lists B and C.”

B.—“I suppose you're right. But our R.O. is pretty good here, you know. We never seem to find many mistakes.”

A.—“Well, no R.O. is infallible and the 100 per cent. correct Register has still to be produced. But have you thought of using Lists B and C for a check canvass?”

B.—“We've considered it in a way, but it's the devil's own job to get people here to canvass unless there's an election on—and even then it's like drawing teeth to get them started. We never have enough canvassers to finish the job. You've no idea how they hate it.”

A.—“Maybe I have, but probably it's because the belief has been allowed to grow that canvassing is a miserable business and one has got to be a walking encyclopaedia of political knowledge, ready to answer a barrage of questions on every doorstep. Which is just nonsense, of course. How would it be if, instead of asking for canvassers, you asked for a dozen or two ‘checkers’?”

B.—“What do you mean, exactly?”

A.—“Well, suppose you go to mem-

bers who have never done any canvassing before, but who would make good canvassers just the same, and tell them you want to check the new registers, asking them to help you. You could explain that all you wanted them to do would be to take a part of the old Register and Lists B and C, and call at the houses to check up and make sure everyone who is entitled to a vote is on the list.”

B.—“Sounds O.K. But what would you advise them to say?”

A.—“They could say: ‘Good evening, Mrs. Brown. We are just checking up on the voters’ lists to make sure you are all on in this house. I see there are four votes here (then read over the Christian names). Is that right? No one else who was over 21 on June 1st? No lodgers or other members of the family? Good. You are all right here.’ Then add in a friendly tone: ‘Mr. ———, the Labour Candidate, asked us to make this check. He is very keen that everyone should use their vote and naturally wants to make sure that everyone who is entitled to a vote has one.’ If there are favourable reactions to the mention of the Labour Candidate, the talk can be taken a stage further and possibly a new member made.”

B.—“Yes, the checkers could carry a few application forms with them. Even if the favourable ones didn't join, the Register could be marked and canvassing made easier for the November, General and County Council elections.”

A.—“You've got the idea. You not only discover claims for Registration, check up on recent removals and secure a general canvass with membership recruitment, but you also get hold of new canvassers and help to kill the theory that canvassing is a job only for experts.”

B.—“The only snag I can see is dealing with List C. All the ‘deads’

are in that list and people naturally hate being asked questions about members of the family who have died recently."

A.—"Yes, you're right there. But need they be mentioned at all? I take it you would go through your old Register before sending it out, and score through all those who are in List C—those no longer qualified to vote. Thus, by asking the positive type of questions I outlined, your checkers would mention all those still on the old Register plus the newly-qualifieds on List B, ask if that's the lot—and there you are."

B.—"That's right. And, after all, the checkers have as much common sense as the rest of us and would be able to handle the situation properly as soon as they got the hang of the Register. It's a good scheme, all right. I'll get busy on it right away."

A.—"Good man. I bet you'll find it time well spent."

To our Readers

In view of the approaching General Election we appeal to our readers to at once increase their orders so that at least every key official gets a copy. For prices see second page of cover.

No Party can afford to be without the "Labour Organiser." You should order at least a dozen copies monthly.

The Editor.

REVIEWS

"An Outline of Man's History." Patrick Gordon Walker (maps by J. F. Horrabin). Stiff covers 2/6 (2/9 post free) N.C.L.C., 15 South Hill Park Gardens, N.W.3.

This is in many respects an opportune time for the National Council of Labour Colleges to have brought out "An Outline of Man's History," by Patrick Gordon Walker. It is a wonderfully lucid and interesting sketch, in 280 pages, of the history of mankind from the time when the human race first appeared on the face of the earth until to-day. Entrancingly interesting, and brilliantly written, this is a book to read.

In writing of this book, W. T. Colyer says:—

"Gordon Walker, in his picture of the rise and fall of earlier civilisations, has contrived to embody a great deal of matter that has a direct bearing upon the attitude to be taken by Socialists in confronting the decay of capitalist civilisation by which they are surrounded.

After studying him one becomes more conscious of the practical possibilities of human betterment arising out of the existing chaos, and less apprehensive of complete and irremediable social collapse." We ourselves are not so sure of this, although the author gives us material in abundance on which to form judgment.

"An Outline of Man's History" has not been written solely for the use of the British Working-Class Movement; it is for the use of workers all over the world, and its publishers hope that, like their "Outline of Economic Geography," it will be translated into other languages.

It is interesting to recall that the six predecessors in the series of Plebs Outlines (some of them worthy to rank as standards) are as follow: — An Outline of Psychology, 17,000 copies; An Outline of Modern Imperialism, 5,000 copies, o.o.p.; An Outline of Economics, 14,000 copies; An Outline of Economic Geography, 17,000 copies; An Outline of European History, 5,000 copies, o.o.p.; An Outline of Finance, 10,000 copies.

LET THE BANKS COLLECT SOME OF THE SUBS.

By Jack Cutter

In nearly every constituency there are supporters of the Party who are a bit better off financially than most of us. They are difficult to get at; never come to meetings or Party functions; may possibly hold Civil Service or Local Government jobs and thus be somewhat diffident about broadcasting their support of the Party. It may be that their business is some distance from their home and one can seldom interview them. And it is almost certain that Party Collectors' will intensely dislike the job of calling on them for subs., working through a barrage of household staff and secretaries before they can get to the man they want.

At the same time, a goodly proportion of such supporters are quite willing to contribute something to the Party funds, and it seems to me that now is a very good time to write each of them a friendly note explaining

that the Divisional Party is building up its resources in readiness for the coming General Election and asking them to help with a regular contribution, enclosing a form of Bankers' Order.

The beauty of the bankers' order is that, once it is signed and sent off to the bank, the contribution comes along regularly and automatically to the Party Treasurer with no trouble on the part of the donor. Indeed, human nature is such that, as he can only stop the contribution by putting himself to some trouble, he will only do so if he has a very good reason indeed.

It is not enough merely to ask him to send an order to the bank. Send him an order made out for a quarterly contribution so that all he has to do is to fill in the name of the bank, the amount of his quarterly contribution and his signature. It is as well

From J. A. Goodchap, Esq., B.Sc., A.M.C.I.
The Grange,
Little Pendleton.

To
The Manager,
The National, Westminster and Barclays Bank, Ltd.,
High Street,
Gt. Pendleton.

Dear Sir,

Commencing on the 1st of next month, and every quarter thereafter until further notice, will you please pay into the account of the Pendleton Divisional Labour Party the sum of £.....s.....d., and debit same to my account?

Yours faithfully,

2d
stamp

.....
here.

Date...../...../39.

to prepare each order separately, on good quality paper and to speculate a twopenny stamp on each placed where he will sign. Something like the form printed on previous page.

You would, of course, have to include either the name and address of your bankers or the address of your Treasurer.

This scheme has been tried successfully and I have recommended it to several Parties. One reaction was that they hated asking rich people for money for the Labour Party. As they had no objection to asking old age pensioners, unemployed and workers on the under-50-bob-a-week level, I cannot see the logic of such an attitude. And why shouldn't a rich man, if he believes in the policy of the Party, pay his sums like the rest of us?

THE "PARTY ORGANISER"

Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. And although we concede that our Communist friends sometimes show originality in tactics (to use a kind expression), which the Labour man would hesitate to follow, it is no less noteworthy when the Communists take a leaf out of Labour's book.

So now we get the "Party Organiser" which, probably to the confusion of the Communist Party, and to save confusion in our own, we must refer to as the "Communist Party Organiser."

It is not pretended, we believe, that the new paper is anything but an imitation of our own effort, though it differs from us in the respect that it is an official journal, and that independence of expression and freedom from restriction which is the strength of the "L.O." will be absent from its pages.

The "Communist Party Organiser" is of the same size as the "Labour Organiser," and we shall expect to find it passed off on unsuspecting purchasers as a Labour Party publication. The title itself suggests that, and our people would be well advised to be alive to this game and to make sure that the "Labour Organiser" every-where gets in first.

In a reference to the "L.O." the "Communist Party Organiser" quotes

the article in our last issue where we told our readers that Labour could not win the General Election if it came to-morrow, but that it could certainly win if from now on we took steps which we there indicated. The "Communist Party Organiser" seeks to make capital of these remarks and suggests that the July "L.O." should provide the Movement with some enlightenment as to how we are to get the great increase of strength necessary to win the General Election.

Well, we accept that challenge and we point to this issue and indeed to every issue for indication of the steps which we suggest would lead to victory. And that is a complete answer.

One of the other things which more than any other would help Labour to win would be the complete disassociation in the public mind of the Labour Party from Communist tactics and policies. We believe that Communist policy makes for dictatorship. Labour, on the other hand, stands for Democracy, and the job of the "Labour Organiser" is to show how our electoral machine, with all its imperfections, can be made the instrument for the triumph of Social Democracy.

Those who do not believe in Parliamentary Government, and who would have no scruples about joining with our Imperialist enemies to destroy it, will make poor copyists of the "Labour Organiser."

Incidentally, in the first issue of the "Communist Party Organiser," advice is given on getting in amongst the Co-operative Women's Guilds, in order to destroy the "pacifism" of those bodies. Well, Mr. Hore Belisha will be truly thankful for such aid.

YOUR PARTY

We shall next month continue our series of articles under the above title by a review of the WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT

Our August issue will be a worth while number.
Order extra.

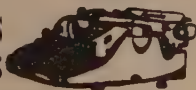
THE LABOUR PARTY DIRECTORY

The alterations listed below, together with those published last month, are to be taken as amendments to the Annual Report just published.

Index Description-

No.	tion	Name of Organisation	Present Secretary and Address
D1	CD	Bedford D.L.P.	Mr. W. B. NORMAN, 27, Harding Close, Bedford.
F27	CD	Camborne D.L.P.	Mrs. ROCH, 13, Carmarthen Street, Camborne, Cornwall.
F48	BD	Sutton D.L.P.	Mr. F. LYNDON, Beaumont Hall, Beaumont Road, Plymouth, Devon.
A75	CD	Sedgefield D.L.P.	Mr. J. W. CHATT, 19, Raisby Terrace, West Cornforth, Ferryhill, Co. Durham.
B152	SB	Bury D.L.P.	Mr. S. HIGHAM, 7A, Haymarket Street, Bury, Lancs.
B158	BD	Exchange D.L.P.	Mr. C. H. BEEKS, 17, Huskisson Street, Liverpool, 8.
B162	BD	Walton D.L.P.	Mr. R. KNIGHT, 19, Lenthall Street, Walton, Liverpool, 4.
B163	BD	Wavertree D.L.P.	Mr. R. L. BUTTERFIELD, 23, Sunny Bank Road, Liverpool, 16.
B183	BD	South Salford D.L.P.	Coun. F. J. LYNCH, 94, Regent Road, Salford, 5: Lancs.
B198	CD	Mossley D.L.P.	Coun. A. HEWITT, 150, Guide Lane, Audenshaw, Manchester.
E252	BD	Brixton D.L.P.	Mr. G. H. GIBBS, 21, Gresham Road, Stockwell, London, S.W.9.
E258/9	DB	Paddington T.C. & L.P.	Mr. W. REID, 52, Marylands Road, Paddington, London, W.9.
E260	BD	Bow & Bromley D.L.P.	Mr. S. NORMAN, Lansbury Hall, 86A, Bow Road, Bow, London, E.3.
D284	SB	Edmonton D.L.P.	Mr. H. B. JOHNSON, 372, Fore Street, London, N.9. Tel.: Tottenham 1627.
C323	BD	Nottingham East D.L.P.	Mr. T. L. PARSONS, 25, Wycliffe Grove, Mapperley, Nottingham.
D376	CD	East Surrey	Mrs. N. INGS, 10, Windermere Road, Coulsdon, Surrey. Tel.: Uplands 6037.
A440	AG	Attercliffe D.L.P.	Mr. H. JENKINS, The Labour Hall, Balfour Road, Darnall, Sheffield, 9.
J570	CD	Perth D.L.P.	Mr. W. GIBSON, 4, Rose Lane, Perth.
J575	CD	West Renfrewshire D.L.P.	Mr. J. MURPHY, 29, Mimosa Road, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire.

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Your Questions Answered Here

Do the bums hold a place of profit ?

Question.—A father and son are in company as Bailiffs. It is a registered company, not limited. They do work for the local Urban District Council in levying distrains for arrears of rates and the usual work of Bailiffs. The father is considering being nominated for the same Urban District Council. Will he, by the nature of this work be considered as an employee of the Council and barred on that account? I shall be glad to hear what you have to say about the matter.

Answer.—Section 59 (1) of the Local Government Act, 1933, disqualifies a person if he "holds any paid office or other place of profit (other than that of Mayor, Chairman or Sheriff) in the gift or disposal of the local authority or of any committee thereof."

The sort of firm or company which is here indicated is not clear to us, but in our opinion the father and son referred are, so far as concerns this matter, acting as partners, and any disability which the Act imposes on individuals is applicable to the members of this "company."

We should imagine that it would be very difficult for the father to escape the position of holding a place of profit under the Council. At the same time we should not like to be too definite upon the matter without knowing something of the terms or agreement, if any, under which the firm acts for the Council. A definite appointment as bailiffs to the Council would seem to us to place disqualification beyond dispute, but an occasional contract might be on the same footing as an occasional purchase from a shop-keeper who by so selling goods to a local authority would not thereby be disqualified.

The question raises one or two points of interest, and we should like to hear further from our correspondent on the matter.

Any Other Business or go Home ?

Question.—I am chairman of a T.U. Branch with a membership of 600, and up to last meeting we have always had an item on the agenda "Any Other Business," which I have found to be a nuisance and has been the means of members raising questions which has prolonged our meetings.

At our last meeting I gave notice from the chair that after this evening there would be no "Any other Business" on the agenda, but if members had questions to ask the Secretary, they could put it in writing before the meeting and we would endeavour to give an answer.

Now some of my members are saying I have not the power to do this. Could you please give me an answer whether I am in order or not?

The order of our agenda as laid down in our Rule Book is as follows:

Correspondence.

Reports of Committee specially called.

Any unfinished business.

New business.

Any report of infringement.

Information for good of Union.

Closing.

Answer.—Regular readers will here recognise a hardy annual which we have dealt with several times in the "Labour Organiser." So far as our questioner is concerned he is on safe ground for the form of agenda is settled by rule. And what other business could there be besides "unfinished" business and "new" business? To add "any other business" is simply piling on the agony; And we support the chair.

"Any other business" is an agenda item which it seems is lost in the myths of antiquity; certainly it belongs to the dark ages when mem-

bers and meetings had not learned order and method and how to do business methodically and properly.

There are organisations whose rules prescribe a form of agenda in which this item is mentioned. In such cases one cannot do much but suffer in silence if, at the close of proceedings, when everybody is tired and some have gone home, An Old Blighter gets up to introduce contentious matter which he and his pals are interested in, and they alone have stayed to get it through.

Where organisations have not so foolishly tied themselves up, "any other business" should be banished from the agenda. A properly drawn agenda will give all the items which the meeting is to discuss, and anybody who wants to raise some fresh question should give notice before the meeting so that others besides himself may know what is coming on. But to give carte blanche to everybody and anybody to raise any question they like at the close of a meeting seems to us to be the acme of asininity.

A question might be asked regard-

ing the power of a chairman to revise an agenda presented to him. This matter does not arise in the case in point because the chairman was clearly acting in accordance with his rules, but it might arise elsewhere. Our comment on this question is that the usual procedure is for the secretary to draw up the agenda, and it is for the chairman to make any suggestions which should be mutually agreed. In strict practice a meeting should have either a copy of the agenda or the same read over to them; the real power over the agenda lies with the meeting itself.

We should add that we have no quarrel with the common-sense course which many chairmen take when a new and important point arises in the course of business. A chairman acts quite properly then in asking the meeting to assent to the question being discussed at some stage in the meeting.

Is an E.C. Member responsible to his Society or the G.M.C.

Question.—Will you please give us your opinion regarding the position of a Ward Secretary who is a member of a Divisional Council and who gets elected to the Divisional Executive Committee. Is the Ward Secretary responsible for his actions on the Executive Committee to the Divisional Council or to his Ward Committee?

Answer.—The question touches on one of the little points of difficulty and opportunities for friction which are latent in the working of any democratic organisation.

It seems to us beyond dispute that when a member of an affiliated organisation is elected to the Divisional Executive, his appointment and responsibility for his actions as an E.C. member vests with the Divisional Council; and it is obvious that he is primarily responsible to this body.

The same position can be seen in operation at any time in the National Organisation of the Labour Party, and cases are not rare where a member of the N.E.C. finds himself at variance with the organisation which was responsible for his nomination. Individuals who find themselves in this

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position have our sympathy, but generally the delicacy of their position is understood and serious results are rare. After all the person who is honoured by election to a post of responsibility has to take the disadvantages along with the honour and the rest of it. The fact that troubles from this source are rare shows that democracy can work and does work.

Ain't I an orator ? and the dud candidate

Question.—I was very interested in your reply last month about a candidate who made a god of his untidiness. I have trouble with my candidate, but of a different kind—he is a very poor speaker and, if I may say so with modesty, I am a good speaker. Everybody wants to hear me, and at every meeting it is the same. I generally speak first and get all the applause and when — gets up to speak he is a flop. I have been asked why I cannot be the candidate, but I cannot afford to give up my work, and besides — is personally a very good fellow and very popular. At the election it looks as if I shall have to carry it through and do all the speaking and somebody else will have to do the organising.

Answer.—Now this is just about as an improper a situation as could arise in the relationship between a candidate and agent. Something is required to knock the conceit out of our correspondent, and he must forgive us if we essay to do it.

In the first place we are not going to accept his statement at face value. Indeed, we have read a report of two speeches, one by himself and one by the candidate, in his own local paper. What is a good speech? Our correspondent's speech was all quip and crack. There was no meat in it. But the candidate's speech was full of fact and argument and was a convincing statement of his case.

Now we are well aware of the advantages of having a candidate who can more than hold his own on the platform. The agent's task is made easy thereby, but, after all, the platform is not the most powerful weapon at an election. It touches far, far less

than half an electorate. Besides, the poor speaker can improve; "the machine" can give him publicity; the canvass and the propaganda can all combine to win votes and popularity. It is the agent's place to see that these things work. If he does this, there is little time (or inclination) for the platform.

Nor is it the agent's place to take the shine out of the candidate. Our friend says in another part of his letter that he is virtually the only other speaker. This is a self-indictment because his job is to train speakers, to start speakers' classes, and to enrol speakers. Most emphatically he should not think of subordinating his proper work for appearances on the platform, however appetising it may prove to himself.

We know all about the disadvantages of having a candidate with shortcomings, but again it is an agent's duty not to seek self-glorification because of his colleague's deficiencies, but to take steps, that are better thought out than expressed here, to improve the situation. There are ways of doing this and there are also ways of encouraging a candidate to put out his best.

The Head Office Telephone They don't jump to it— See you

Question.—M.A. writes to us complaining of what he calls the inconsiderate attitude of Head Office people to long-distance telephone calls. He says that his three minutes' call has often been "up" before he has got the

On the fourth page of cover you will find six good reasons for getting a sufficient wholesale supply of the "L.O." each month.

person he wanted, and there is often a cost of 2/6 a call before he has the chance of saying anything. He thinks that something might be done to bring people to the telephone more quickly, especially when a local secretary wishes to speak to more than one Head Official official. He alleges that on one occasion he lost another half-crown waiting to be connected to the second officer.

Answer.—We imagine that this question arises out of a lack of appreciation of circumstances in any office where there are a number of persons or departments.

Our correspondent evidently does not realise that a call is first received at the private exchange, and there are a large number of extension wires. The charge for a call will begin directly he is connected to the exchange, but there may be delay in getting through to a particular extension. It is impossible to get through direct to any particular person on an ordinary call.

A little imagination will show that the person he wants may be already engaged on another call or in interview or even out of his department attending a committee meeting. Our own experience is that the Party exchange does everything to connect up quickly, but no man can speak to two distant correspondents at the same time nor be in two places at the same time.

Further, our correspondent could avoid these difficulties by making a "personal" call. There is an additional charge for a "personal" call of 1/- from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. or 6d. outside these hours. When a "personal" call is made, the telephone service go to no end of trouble to connect the caller with the person wanted and the cost of a call does not begin until the caller and the person called are actually connected up, in which

case the only additional charge is the personal call fee. Where the person wanted cannot be found, the caller may be asked if there is someone else who is available to whom he would like to speak. Is not all this service for an additional 6d. or 1/- better than wasting time, temper and money in the expectation that officers have nothing to do but wait upon the telephone, or the world will so order itself that only one person in the country will ring at any one time?

Registration Dates in Scotland

A.C.—The dates you mention are the registration dates for England and Wales. In Scotland the last day of the qualifying period is June 15th, and other dates are correspondingly later as follows:—

August 8th. Publication of electors' lists.

August 22nd. Last day for objections to lists.

August 22nd. Last day for claims.

August 29th. Publication of objections of lists to claimants.

September 1st. Last day for claims as absent voters.

September 3rd. Last day for objections to claims.

September 3rd. Publication of list of objections to claims.

To A. N. OTHER

J.C.—The summaries of the conscription regulations which have been published cannot, of course, cover every detail. There are exceptions and provisos. You should get Statutory Rules and Orders, No. 601, price 5d., from the Stationery Office, York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2. These rules have also been on sale at the principal booksellers.



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